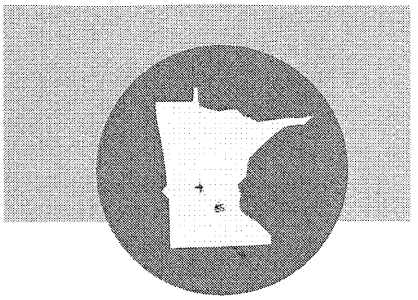
MINNESOTA



In Minnesota, 45.8 percent of the state's 2.8 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Minnesota are increasing slightly. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 49.9 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was 38.3 percent. The rate is rising slowly. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults (25-34), the rate is 39.3 percent.

In Minnesota and nationally, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 55 percent of Minnesota's adult population — nearly 1.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Minnesota will need to add more than 140,000 degrees to that total.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 70 percent of Minnesota's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Minnesota will need to fill 902,000 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 620,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Minnesota's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

Minnesota can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2010, more than 669,000 Minnesota adults — nearly 24 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Minnesota reach the 60 percent goal.

Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree

2008 – 45.1%

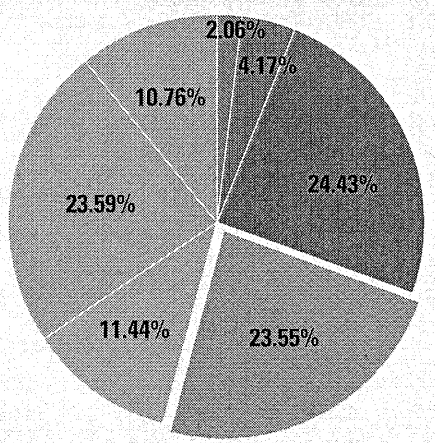
2009 – 45.2%

2010 – 45.8%

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Minnesota develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Minnesota communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Minnesota must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build Minnesota's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

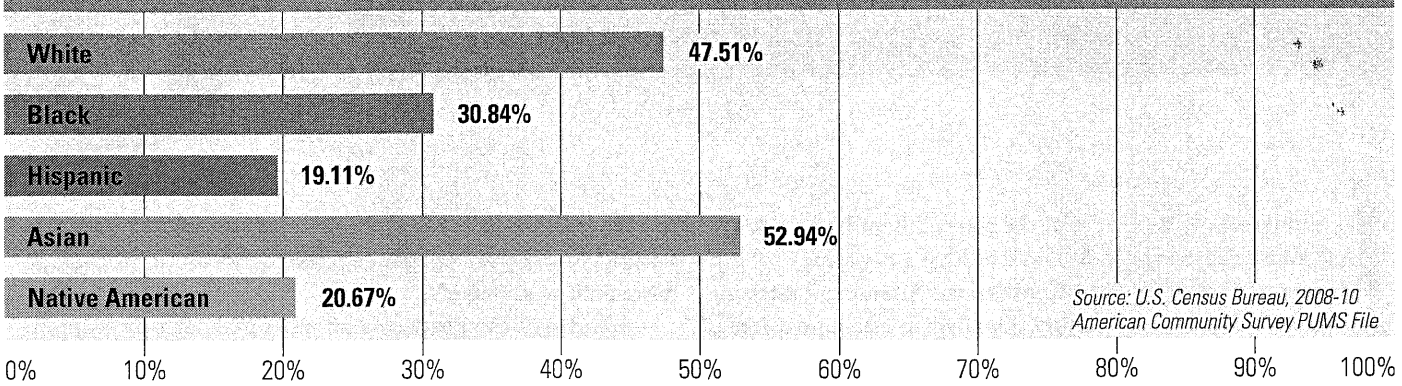
Levels of education for Minnesota residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	58,519	2.06%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	118,623	4.17%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	694,132	24.43%
Some college, no degree	669,136	23.55%
Associate degree	324,934	11.44%
Bachelor's degree	670,248	23.59%
Graduate or professional degree	305,810	10.76%
TOTAL	2,841,402	100%

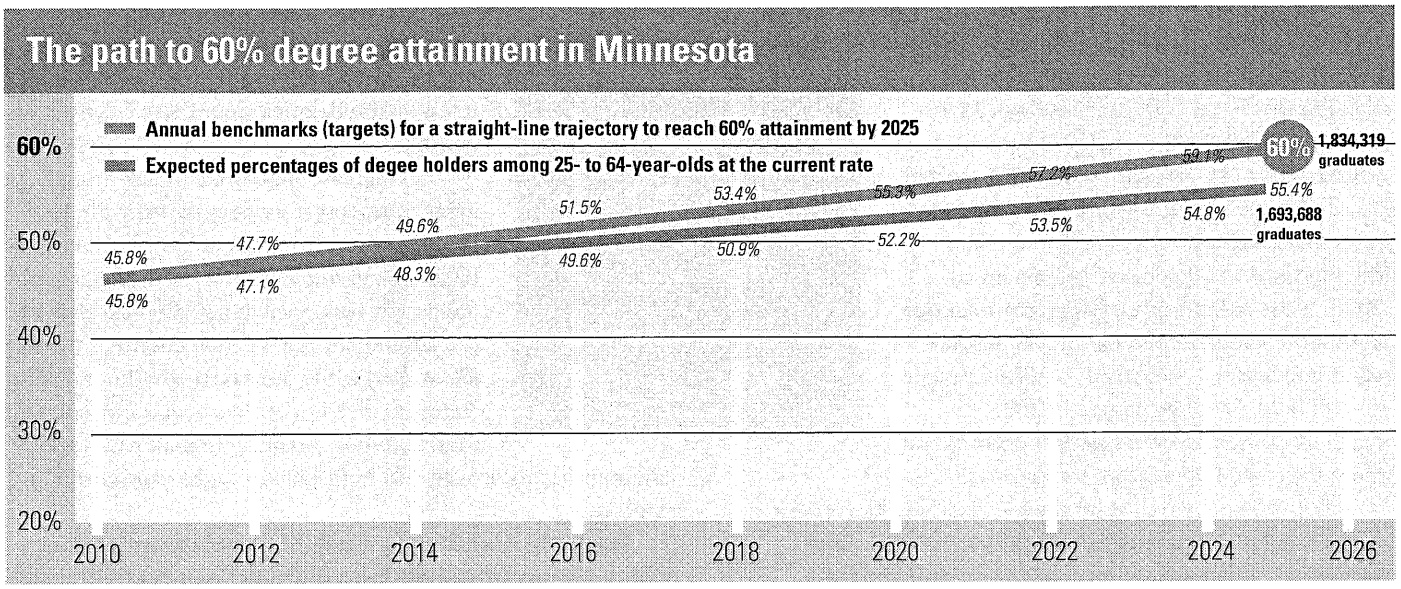
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Degree-attainment rates among Minnesota adults (ages 25-64), by population group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

Percentage of Minnesota adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county

Aitkin	27.75	Cook	38.25	Itasca	36.55	Martin	32.35	Pope	36.31	Swift	29.56
Anoka	39.73	Cottonwood	29.42	Jackson	37.45	Meeker	30.86	Ramsey	49.45	Todd	24.99
Becker	35.24	Crow Wing	37.99	Kanabec	25.28	Mille Lacs	27.03	Red Lake	28.54	Traverse	37.63
Beltrami	41.10	Dakota	51.70	Kandiyohi	37.78	Morrison	26.57	Redwood	29.98	Wabasha	33.42
Benton	34.66	Dodge	37.52	Kittson	35.00	Mower	32.32	Renville	30.83	Wadena	32.21
Big Stone	32.75	Douglas	41.46	Koochiching	27.88	Murray	29.31	Rice	36.95	Waseca	30.87
Blue Earth	43.68	Faribault	30.55	Lac qui Parle	35.80	Nicollet	47.53	Rock	34.94	Washington	53.19
Brown	31.27	Fillmore	35.07	Lake	33.08	Nobles	28.46	Roseau	27.94	Watonwan	28.41
Carlton	36.49	Freeborn	28.65	Lake of the Woods	27.85	Norman	32.11	St. Louis	40.90	Wilkin	41.11
Carver	56.36	Goodhue	38.88	Le Sueur	33.36	Olmsted	53.61	Scott	50.10	Winona	41.50
Cass	31.20	Grant	37.30	Lincoln	34.62	Otter Tail	36.14	Sherburne	37.88	Wright	38.90
Chippewa	33.11	Hennepin	55.21	Lyon	40.59	Pennington	33.45	Sibley	25.76	Yellow Medicine	34.60
Chisago	30.40	Houston	41.79	McLeod	35.75	Pine	22.42	Stearns	38.33		
Clay	48.15	Hubbard	37.25	Mahnomen	26.77	Pipestone	30.46	Steele	35.86		
Clearwater	28.88	Isanti	27.90	Marshall	33.89	Polk	35.99	Stevens	39.53		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates